

consumer protections and was an outspoken opponent of the Vietnam war and a proponent of nuclear non-proliferation. He was also a Navy veteran and businessman who was often mentioned as a Presidential contender.

This body, the Senate, honors him for his faithful service to his country as a sailor and as a Member of Congress. My thoughts are with his family, including Senator ROCKEFELLER and his lovely wife Sharon.

REDUCING THE BUDGET DEFICIT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today President Obama laid out a common-sense plan to substantially reduce the budget deficit. I congratulate President Obama for his vision. Last week he presented the country with a roadmap to reduce our jobs deficit, a proposal to create nearly 2 million jobs and reduce unemployment by a percentage point. Today he has also offered a pathway to reduce our budget deficit—not only the jobs deficit but a budget deficit. It is a concrete strategy to cut the deficit by more than \$4 trillion over the next decade and to do it fairly.

The plan calls for shared sacrifice for all Americans, including those who can best afford to help. It calls on those who have benefited from the tax policies that sunk this country deeper and deeper into debt to help get us out of this debt.

Americans know shared sacrifice is the best path to fiscal sustainability. All the polls indicate that Republicans believe that, Democrats believe that, and Independents believe that. They believe many of the richest few should pay more, and one of the richest of all of them, Warren Buffett, agrees. That is why the President has proposed the so-called Buffett rule, that no American making more than \$1 million a year should pay a lower tax than this Nation's middle class.

This would apply to the top three-tenths of 1 percent—that is all, a small group of Americans—but they are the richest of the rich just like Mr. Buffett. Warren Buffett believes it is unfair that he pays a lower income tax than his secretary. This is what he said:

If you're in the luckiest 1 percent of humanity, you owe it to the rest of humanity to think about the other 99 percent.

Actually, it is more than 99 percent; it is 99.7 percent. There are about 22,000 people in this country who make more than \$1 million a year—this is net income—yet paid less than 15 percent of income in taxes. The top 400 earners in this country, all of whom make more than \$110 million a year, pay a small percentage of their income in taxes. They pay a smaller share than plumbers and teachers and factory workers. More than anyone else these millionaires and billionaires benefit from these tax cuts that contributed \$3 trillion to our deficit. They helped plunge this Nation into a financial hole. Yet congressional Republicans believe the

middle class and seniors, not the millionaires and billionaires who enjoyed trillions in tax breaks, should bear the burden of getting us out of that hole.

A balanced approach to reducing the deficit means those who benefited the most from policies that created our deficit should also help solve the deficit crisis we have. A balanced approach means everyone pays his or her fair share. It means middle-class seniors and those who can least afford it will not bear the heaviest burden. So I commend President Obama for insisting on basic fairness as we address our deficit problem.

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last week was a productive one in the Senate. We reached a bipartisan agreement to pass emergency aid for communities affected by devastating floods, tornadoes, and wildfires. We also reauthorized the Federal Aviation Administration, keeping 80,000 safety inspectors and construction workers on the job. We passed a highway bill keeping 1.8 million people at work building bridges and highways.

Congress has no duty more pressing than putting people back to work, and this highway legislation will do just that. But we can and must do more. That is why this week the Senate will take up the trade adjustment assistance legislation. The TAA Program helps U.S. workers who lose their jobs because of international trade to learn new skills so they can reenter a changing workforce, and it helps them pay for health insurance while they are training for new jobs.

A global economy means fierce global competition. Unless our workforce is flexible and well-trained, we cannot hope to compete.

Between 2001 and 2008, Americans lost 2.4 million jobs because of trade with China. The Trade Adjustment Assistance Program is retraining many of these people, getting them back to work and into the workforce and boosting our economy at the same time. It is unfortunate that my Republican colleagues who say they care so much about free trade have prevented three such agreements from moving forward because of objections to this trade adjustment assistance legislation.

We have known for a long time we were going to move to this trade adjustment assistance. It is unthinkable that the Republicans would stop us from doing that, and that is just what happened. As we struggle to rebound from the worst recession in generations, it is unthinkable that we would abandon hard-working Americans who lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

The trade adjustment assistance legislation provides a lifeline they need to get back on their feet.

Mr. President, would the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4:45, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded, and to speak for up to 15 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, in the decade that has passed since the devastating attacks of 9/11, we have seen enormous changes in our daily lives. For many of us, these changes have become routine. We have become more alert to potential suspicious activities, accustomed to additional screening procedures at airports, and understand the need for additional security precautions in places that could be seen as potential targets for terrorists. For many other Americans, though, their lives were altered in ways that are anything but routine. These are the families, friends, and brothers in arms of those who have given their lives in the global war on terror, including the over 3,000 lives taken in the horrific attacks on our Nation on September 11, 2001.

This past Sunday was a somber day to reflect, remember, and honor the lives that have been cut short by terror. On Sunday morning, I spoke at my church about the impact 9/11 had on me personally and us collectively as a nation. It is important to take the time in the Senate Chamber to remember these brave heroes. We all remember where we were at the time the planes struck the towers and the awful feeling when we realized this was not an accident. We remember the emotional outpouring our Nation shared and how the tragedy brought us all closer together. What happened after the moments of devastation on September 11, 2001, unified our Nation and demonstrated the perseverance and the will of the American people.

We remember the people who refused to leave an injured coworker and those who led others to safety. We remember the firefighters, the policemen, and all the first responders who saved lives that day, many of whom gave their